



11 January 2026 - The Baptism of the Lord - Year C

Holy Masses**Saturday Vigil**5pm Hanmer Springs
(Every Saturday)7pm Culverden
(Every Saturdays)**Sunday Mass**8.30am Amberley
(Every Sunday)11am Cheviot
(1st & 3rd Sundays Only)10.30am Hawarden
(2nd & 4th Sunday Only)12pm The Beatitudes,
Leithfield
(Every Sunday)**Weekday Masses**Monday - Friday
8:30am AmberleyTuesday - Saturday
12pm The Beatitudes,
Leithfield**Adoration & Reconciliation****1st Friday of the month**
from 7:30amConfession by Appointment
or before Mass**Rosary**Wednesday 1:30pm
Amberley Church Hall**Kalavale**Parish's cup of tea & raffles
1st Sunday of the Month.**St Joseph Men's Group**
2nd & 4th Monday 7pm-9pm
Amberley Hall**Membership dues and duties**

Today is the Solemnity of the Lord's Baptism. After Jesus was baptised by John, a voice came from heaven that said: "You are my beloved son; with you I am well pleased." By virtue of our own baptism, we too have become sons and daughters in the Son. By the very same baptism, we too are called to live lives pleasing to the Father.

We who are baptised have become members of the church and members of Christ's Mystical Body. As members, we have privileges. But, as members we too have dues and duties. Please check your membership card today. There is no expiry date to our membership. It is permanent and indelible. But please check if you are still an active bona fide member, in good standing. By the way, our membership dues and duties are non-transferable, and cannot be delegated to others. Each one of us must do our mission. Baptism is our initiation for a mission.

To "remember" literally means to become a member again. Let us remember our own baptism, by renewing our baptismal promises "to reject sin so as to live in the freedom of God's children; to reject the glamour of evil, and refuse to be mastered by sin; to reject Satan, father of sin and prince of darkness." To remember also means to profess and live our faith once again.

Today marks the end of the Christmas season and the beginning of Ordinary Time in the liturgical calendar. That is not to say though that the Christmas spirit of love, peace, giving and sharing should also end. May we all continue doing ordinary everyday things with much love and extraordinary fervour in response to our baptismal call and mission

Let us take time today to say a prayer for our parents who had us baptised, the priest who baptised us, the baptismal godparents who promised to stand by us and our own baptismal godchildren who we likewise promised to help and guide.

If God were looking at you right now, would He be smiling and pleased with the life you are living? Or, would He be so concerned and sad about you and the kind of life that you are in? May we all live lives pleasing to the Father!

By the way, membership in the church is not exclusive, nor is it elitist. Let us ask the Lord, today, to shake us when we become sleepy, disturb us when we become too comfortable, move us when we become complacent and surprise us when we become too guarded and predictable.

Lord, help me to renew my baptismal membership today, and do my dues and duties. Amen.

From the workshop- words on St Joseph- Fr Calloway's book Page 133

At the Baptism of Jesus this Sunday this marks the start of Jesus' public ministry. From all time the Lord had prepared St Joseph's mission during the early years of Jesus. "In St Joseph, God Prepared a spouse, a guardian, and a knight for Mary. According to God's design, it had to be this way. God did not come into the world in any other manner than through the marriage of a man and a woman, a virginal man and woman".

FIRST READING: Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7

Here is my servant, in whom my soul delights

Psalm 28(29):1-4,9-10

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

SECOND READING: Acts 10:34-38

God had anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit

GOSPEL: Matthew 3:13-17

'This is my Son, the Beloved'

HYMNS for SUNDAY MASSES

(May vary on the day)

695 Glory and Praise

865 Here I am Lord

633 Eat this Bread

644 Alleluia Sing to Jesus

ONE MINUTE CATECHESIS**What is the Eucharist?**

The Eucharist is the very sacrifice of the Body and Blood of the Lord Jesus which he instituted to perpetuate the sacrifice of the cross throughout the ages until his return in glory. Thus he entrusted to his Church this memorial of his death and Resurrection. It is a sign of unity, a bond of charity, a paschal banquet, in which Christ is consumed, the mind is filled with grace, and a pledge of future glory is given to us. (CCC 1322-1323 CCC 1409)

When did Jesus Christ institute the Eucharist?

Jesus instituted the Eucharist on Holy Thursday "the night on which he was betrayed" (1 Corinthians 11:23), as he celebrated the Last Supper with his apostles. (CCC 1323 CCC 1337-1340)

How did he institute the Eucharist?

After he had gathered with his apostles in the Cenacle, Jesus took bread in his hands. He broke it and gave it to them saying, "Take this and eat it, all of you; this is my Body which will be given up for you". Then, he took the cup of wine in his hands and said, "Take this and drink of this, all of you. This is the cup of my Blood, the Blood of the new and everlasting covenant. It will be shed for you and for all so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me". (CCC 1337-1340 CCC 1365, 1406)

What does the Eucharist represent in the life of the Church?

It is the source and summit of all Christian life. In the Eucharist, the sanctifying action of God in our regard and our worship of him reach their high point. It contains the whole spiritual good of the Church, Christ himself, our Pasch. Communion with divine life and the unity of the People of God are both expressed and effected by the Eucharist. Through the eucharistic celebration we are united already with the liturgy of heaven and we have a foretaste of eternal life. (CCC 1324-1327 CCC 1407)

Notices**COLUMBAN CALENDARS**

The 2026 Columban Calendars are for sale at \$12. Please see Mary Bimler after the 8:30am Mass in Amberley.

The Hawarden Crib:

We have been informed that the Crib that has been used for decades at the Hawarden Church could not be found anywhere this last Christmas. If you were to know anything about it, please let us know as soon as possible. Thank you.

**SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION for 2026 - Enrolment closing Sunday 1st March 2026**

The Hurunui Parish of the Good Shepherd will be offering to prepare candidates to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Bishop Michael Gielen will be administering the Sacrament at the 10:30am Mass in Hawarden on Sunday 26th April 2026 (*Good Shepherd Sunday, Hurunui patronal feast day*)

The preparatory sessions will take place at the Beatitudes Community in Leithfield.

More information and Registration forms available in the Church foyer.